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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-10	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSC-01	NSAE-00	SY-06	HA-08
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R 182046Z MAY 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7359  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044;  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny  
Exemption(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full  
☐ Classify as \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Extend as \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Downgrade to \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

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CINCSO FOR INTAFF; CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: MAY 14 DEATH OF TWO LEFTISTS

1. (U) BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE ANNOUNCED MAY 17 THAT TWO POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, ONE A PERONIST PARTY MEMBER AND THE OTHER SAID TO HAVE EXTENSIVE CONNECTIONS WITH THE MONTONEROS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, WERE KILLED IN A SHOOTOUT THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 14. THE PAIR HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE PUBLICITY FOR THREE DAYS AFTER POLITICAL ASSOCIATES AND HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMEN CLAIMED EYEWITNESSES SAW THEM BEING KIDNAPPED FROM A BAR IN ROSARIO, IN THE NEIGHBORING SANTA FE PROVINCE, AT 11:00 A.M. ON MAY 14. THE POLICE VERSION, SET OUT IN A COMMUNIQUE, SAID THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WERE OBSERVED DRIVING A LIGHT FIAT THAT SATURDAY AFTERNOON ON THE PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY TRYING TO AVOID A TRAFFIC PATROL, WHICH GAVE

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PURSUIT. WHEN OVERTAKEN ON A DIRT ROAD OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE OCCUPANTS OF THE

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FIAT OPENED FIRE WITH HANDGUNS. POLICE RETURNED THE FIRE AND THE TWO FUGITIVES WERE KILLED, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID.

2. (U) VICENTE SAADI, A LEADER OF THE PERONIST LEFT, FIRST RAISED THE ALARM ABOUT THE ALLEGED MAY 14 KIDNAPPING OF OSVALDO CAMBIASSO, DESCRIBED AS A LEFTWING PERONIST MILITANT. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SAID CAMBIASSO WAS WITH JUSTO JAVIER CORREA, LATER IDENTIFIED AS EDUARDO PEREYRA ROSSI, WHEN HEAVILY ARMED CIVILIANS WERE SEEN TO TAKE THEM FROM THE MAGNUM BAR IN ROSARIO THE MORNING OF THE 14TH. SAADI, TOGETHER WITH HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMEN AND POLITICIANS FROM OTHER PARTIES, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF THE POLICE COMMUNIQUE YESTERDAY THAT THE DEATHS OF CAMBIASSO AND PEREYRA ROSSI WERE "A CLEAR CASE OF MURDER BY THE PARAPOLICE OR PARAMILITARY GROUPS". THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TWO A (#) OFFICERS, PATI AND G (#) ALCANTAAU, WERE IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION. THEY PINNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS ON THE 2ND ARMY VGRPS, HEADQUARTERED IN ROSARIO AND SAID THE ENTIRE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS AN ACCOMPLICE.

3. (U) PRESIDENT REYNALDO BIGNONE, QUESTIONED ABOUT THE AFFAIR BY THE PRESS YESTERDAY ON HIS RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES FOLLOWING A PROVINCIAL TOUR, SAID HE ACCEPTED THE POLICE VERSION OF THE SHOOTING. "THERE WAS NO KIDNAPPING BY SECURITY ORGANS," HE SAID, "THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPLAINING ITS ACTIONS AND IS NOT TRYING TO HIDE THEM, AS EXPLAINED IN THE POLICE COMMUNIQUE."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THAT STATEMENT GAVE BOTH A BRIEF OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF THE EPISODE IN WHICH CAMBIASSO AND PEREYRA DIED AND DETAILS ON THEIR POLICE RECORDS. AFTER THE SHOOTING, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID, FINGERPRINTS OF THE VICTIMS ESTABLISHED THEIR IDENTITIES. CAMBIASSO IS A 42-YEAR-OLD CHEMICAL ENGINEER WHO WAS SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN 1971 ON SEVERAL COUNTS OF HAVING USED ARMS IN CRIMINAL ACTS. CORREA, IT SAID, WAS ACTUALLY PEREYRA ROSSI, WHO WAS CHARGED 10 YEARS AGO WITH ILLEGAL ARMS POSSESSION AND FORGERY OF DOCUMENTS. PEREYRA ROSSI, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HEAD OF THE MONTONEROS' "SOUTHERN COLUMN"

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PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION IN 1976, THEIR GENERAL PRESS SECRETARY IN 1977-79, HEAD OF "SOUTHERN ZONE" OPERATIONS FOR THE MONTONEROS IN 1980, AND PROPAGANDA CHIEF FOR THE ORGANIZATION IN MEXICO THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IN ADDITION TO HAVING RETURNED TO ARGENTINA PRIOR TO HIS DEATH, THE POLICE SAID PEREYRA ROSSI HAD BEEN HERE IN 1979 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MONTONEROS "COUNTER-OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN" OF THAT YEAR. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID CAMBIASSO AND PEREYRA ROSSI HAD USED A 9-MM AND A 38 CAL. PISTOL IN THEIR FIGHT WITH THE POLICE. A FEDERAL JUDGE IS NOW INVESTIGATING, IT SAID.

4. [REDACTED] THE AFFAIR HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTIES WITH ITALY, WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOA'S APRIL 28 "FINAL REPORT" ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION. CAMBIASSO APPARENTLY WAS A NATURALIZED ARGENTINE OF ITALIAN ORIGIN AND WHEN HIS KIDNAPPING WAS ALLEGED, THE ITALIAN CONSUL IN ROSARIO MADE REPRESENTATUNENS. THE MAY 17 PRESS REPORTED THE CONSUL, ANTONIO D'ANDRIA, MET AGAIN WITH OFFICIALS OF THE 2ND ARMY CORPS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHAT HAPPENED.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PERONIST VICE PRESIDENT DEOLINDO BITTEL, IN A MAY 18 CONVERSATION WITH ARA/PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI, SAID "NOT EVEN A CHILD IS GOING TO BELIEVE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) GARBLE/OMISSION IN PARA 2. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

[REDACTED]

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R 182046Z MAY 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7360  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
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THE OFFICIAL STORY". HE CALLED THE KILLINGS "A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION". BITTEL FELT THAT BIGNONE, ARMY CINC NICOLAIDES AND INTERIOR MINISTER RESTON "MUST BE FIT TO BE TIED...THEY SINCERELY WANT A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE, BUT THIS INCIDENT IS LIKE A BOMB PLACED RIGHT UNDER THEIR DESKS. IT COULD COMPROMISE THE POLITICAL OPENING."

5. [REDACTED] ON THIS ASPECT, BITTEL ALSO NOTED THAT THE INCIDENT HAS PLACED THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. HE SAID THAT  
(#) NOW THEY HAD  
ESCHEWED JOINING THE CHORUS OF HARSH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S "FINAL DOCUMENT" ON THE DISAPPEARED -- CRITICISM WHICH HE  
3WMID(#) HAS SEVERELY AFFECTED THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF THE ARMED FORCES -- BECAUSE OF THE  
EFFECT IT COULD  
HAVE ON THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY.

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[REDACTED]  
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PARANTHETICALLY,  
HE NOTED THAT USG STATEMENTS ON THE  
FINAL  
DOCUMENT" WERE MODERATE AND THAT THAT WAS HELPFUL.  
HE SAID THE PERONIST PARTY HAS ALSO RESISTED JOINING  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS MARCH PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, MAY 20,  
BECAUSE OF A DESIRE TO AVOID EXACERBATING THE ALREADY  
TRAINED ATMOSPHERE. THE MURDER OF THESE TWO  
INDIVIDUALS, HOWEVER, WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE  
PERONISTS TO TEMPORIZE ANY LONGER, HE NOTED; THEY MAY  
FEEL FORCED INTO PARTICIPATING. BITTEL CONCLUDED  
THAT THE INCIDENT HAS PLAYED INTO THE HANDS OF THE

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EXTREME RIGHT AND EXTREME LEFT. END COMMENT.  
SHLAUDEMAM

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) GARBLES/OMISSIONS IN PARA 6. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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